Appln. No. 09/756,778 Reply to Office Action of 06/20/03

## IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract with the following new ABSTRACT:

## **ABSTRACT**

A digital transmission method of the error-correcting coding type comprises having a coding procedure before transmission and a decoding procedure for obtaining a correction of transmission errors. The said coding procedure comprises includes a plurality of parallel and/or serial related elementary coding steps associated in parallel and/or in series. The decoding procedure is iterative and <u>includes</u> <del>comprises</del>, for each iteration, a plurality of elementary decoding steps (51, 52, 53) which correspond corresponding to the said plurality of elementary coding steps and which each generate generating at least one weighted output information item which can be transmitted to one or more other elementary decoding steps. According to the invention, a A characteristic quantity determination step (54) calculates at least one characteristic quantity is calculated from a set of weighted output information items. generated by at least one elementary decoding step (51, 52, 53; 83), and a decoded information quality parameter determination step (55; 85) determines, is determined from the said at least one characteristic quantity and at least one configuration parameter, a decoded information quality parameter associated with a set of decoded information items corresponding to the said set of weighted output information items. The said decoded information quality parameter can be used downstream of the said decoding procedure or even within this decoding procedure.

